

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction .....	4	Ms. Marvel .....	74
Captain Marvel .....	8	Hellcat.....	78
America Chavez .....	12	Animal Companions .....	82
Quake .....	16	The Runaways.....	84
She-Hulk .....	20	Dora Milaje .....	88
Thor .....	24	Daughters of the Dragon .....	92
Science Squad .....	28	Peggy Carter & S.H.I.E.L.D. ....	96
Black Widow .....	30	Ironheart .....	102
Spider-Woman .....	34	Unstoppable Wasp .....	106
Mary Jane Watson .....	38	Mentors & Matriarchs .....	110
Gamora .....	42	Moon Girl .....	112
Medusa .....	48	Mockingbird .....	116
Ghost-Spider .....	52	Shuri .....	120
Valkyrie.....	56	Hawkeye .....	126
Monica Rambeau.....	60	Scarlet Witch .....	130
Terrific Twosomes.....	64	Silk .....	134
Squirrel Girl.....	66	Gwenpool .....	138
Mantis .....	70	Portraits Poster .....	144



### LIONHEARTED LADIES. GALACTIC GALS. DARING DAMES. BAD BAES.

**T**HIS IS THE MARVEL UNIVERSE. Where the personalities, powers, and straight-up legends of countless heroic women have captivated readers for generations. Whether they consider their supernatural abilities a blessing or a curse, these women have gifts as diverse as these heroic ladies themselves. From the powerful punches of America Chavez to the godly zeal of Valkyrie, there's an entire universe of women here to teach us how we all have the power within ourselves to be extraordinary.

Even as extraordinary as Squirrel Girl. Perhaps the most powerful hero in the entire Marvel Universe, Squirrel Girl has defeated villains as omnipotent as Thanos and as titanic as the city-crushing monstrosity Fin Fang Foom. Although the name Squirrel Girl may not immediately evoke fear, Doreen Green has a surprisingly formidable set of gifts. She is said to have all the powers of a squirrel and all the powers of a girl!!

Stop breaking the fourth wall, Gwenpool. We haven't gotten to you yet.

But I can't wait!

GWEN! Okay, okay. Sheesh!

Sorry about that. Now, where was I? Oh, yeah!

Before Gwenpool interrupts again, I should mention that I'm Lorraine. I live in New York City, the home of Super Heroes. I can almost see Avengers Mansion\* from my office window! Well . . . kinda. There's a building in the way.

Since I was a girl, Super Heroes have been a big part of my life, and now I get to talk about them every day as part of my work. I live and breathe this stuff on the daily! I know, right?! But, I've always wished a book existed not just celebrating heroic women in the Marvel Universe, but sharing their struggles, victories, and the lessons we can learn from these laudable ladies. These girls and women can teach us so much more than how to punch hard (though I am HERE for that, too). They can teach us about growth, passion, our innermost selves, and how to become our own heroes.

So what exactly are the powers of a girl? Whether you were born a girl, identify as a girl, or just appreciate how darn cool girls and former girls (or as you might call them: women) just so happen to be, we know that being a girl can bring you great and unfortold powers. And as Spider-Man's Uncle Ben once said, with great power comes great—Eh, you know the rest.

That reminds me . . . from time to time, I might mention boys, or even men, or sometimes boys who put "man" in their name to sound cool. Boys and men are welcome here, too. Everyone is welcome. Hey, we're all in it together, right? Well, except for maybe the Super Villains. Hopefully, if any Super Villains are reading this, they will learn to turn over a new leaf and stop being Grade-A jerks. Anyway, while this book will focus on girls and former girls, everybody is welcome to the girl party because a party alone is . . . well,

\*Avengers Mansion is based on a real building in NYC, a museum called the Frick House. Which is pretty Frickin' awesome.

awkward. Even the most powerful Super Hero is stronger with the help of her allies. So, join me and other True Believers who dare to seek the wisdom of Marvel Super Hero Girls.

As I was saying, girls have many powers, which we'll explore in this book. And while, yes, some of these girls can fly, punch hard, embiggen, talk to squirrels, and occasionally emit dangerous sparkles, that is far from what makes them super. Super Heroes come in all shapes, sizes, races, religions, genders, sexualities, outfits, and musical tastes, but there is one thing that they all share.

GWEN. NO. Anyways, this brings us to:

### GIRLS: THE ORIGIN STORY

No Super Hero is born a champion. Even if you just so happen to tumble out of the womb flying, punching hard, embiggening, talking to squirrels, or emitting danger sparkles, the path to heroism requires a choice. The choice to use your powers for good. That's why none of these stories really start at birth. They begin when *something* awful, amazing, clandestine, or all of the above happens. What these girls choose to do with that *something* is what makes them great. Heck, some of these ladies were heroes before they were even super.

Life is full of these choices, and that is where our heroes begin. Girls have choices to do the right thing, and that is their first super-power. SPOILER ALERT: When they start out, some girls may even work with some pretty reprehensible people doing some pretty not-cool things and end up becoming heroes, like Black Widow and Gamora. Sorry to call you out, ladies, but . . . you know what you did.

Here are attributes of a girl that, as we'll see, will make super people become Super Heroes.

### !WARNING! FLAWS

I just want to get this out in the open now: This isn't going to be one of those books where all the heroes do everything right all the time. In fact, sometimes these girls mess up. Big-time. Sometimes they mess up and bad things happen to them and to the people they love. Sometimes bad things happen and it's not even their fault and they still have to deal with the fallout. No girl is perfect, no matter how super. A lot more can be learned from failures than from always winning, so appreciate these failures! Learning from mistakes and moving on is one heck of a super-power.

### SACRIFICES AND HARD WORK

Sometimes doing what is right means giving up other things. Spider-Gwen would much rather hang out with her ax-grinding bandmates, the Mary Janes, than save NYC from the Lizard, but you know, not everything can be rock-star jam sessions. Super-powers won't do all the work for you.

### RESPONSIBILITY

It's not just for Spider-Men anymore. Girls can take responsibility for their actions and their communities. A hero sees the world she lives in and knows she can use her powers to improve it. It's her responsibility to make her world better if she can. When Quake sees that the world is being overtaken by evil, instead of submitting, she leads a team of elite forces to save the day. Responsibility also means taking responsibility for her own actions; even Captain Marvel has made some *major* mistakes that meant a *major* (. . . military humor) apology to her bestie,

Spider-Woman. Perhaps this is a harder kind of responsibility because there is no glory, but it doesn't make it any less brave.

### EMPATHY

Acknowledging the suffering and needs of others is the first signal to any hero that she must dive into action. These girls see their fellow humans, aliens, and sometimes whole planets, and feel their pain, outrage, and fear. Only then will they truly know how to spring into action and save the day. When Captain Marvel sees the aliens displaced by Thanos, she knows she cannot return to Earth until they have homes because she knows how it must feel to have nowhere to go. This also means she must have empathy for herself, which can be a boatload harder at times. This is why bubble baths were invented.\*

### TEAM-UPS

Asking for help when you need it is definitely a super-power. Girls know that a super-squad gets it done way faster than going it alone, and that sometimes a job takes more than one lady. Whether it's having equally super backup like BFFs Captain Marvel and Spider-Woman, or having a whole crew of confident baes like She-Hulk, or the HERoes of A-Force, girls get the job done—together.

### USING HER SMARTS

Girls use their minds. Take fifteen-year-old Riri Williams, who created her own Iron Man suit in her dorm room at MIT. Or Nadia Van Dyne, the second-generation Wasp who started her own lab of girl geniuses

\* Not really, but they *are* straight-up magic.

after deciding that lady scientists weren't getting enough attention. Even the greatest super-genius invests in her mind with education, reading, exploring, getting messy, and stoking the flames of her curiosities. At only nine years old, Lunella Lafayette is the smartest character in the entire Marvel Universe, but she still has a lot to learn.

### BEING BRAVE

Girls do brave things! Being brave can mean everything from standing up for what one believes in to simply saying no to something one doesn't want to do. Honestly, the latter is often harder than the former. But don't be mistaken. Being brave doesn't mean she always feels imperious or is never scared. In fact, what makes her so brave is that she keeps going when she feels the most afraid. Ms. Marvel was petrified that she'd disappoint her family by taking on her Super Hero persona—not to mention putting herself in personal peril—but she knew she had to do what was right to protect the lives of her fellow New Jersey teens.

Okay, are you ready? These girls are going to do some awesome things. They're going to beat up baddies, break through to other dimensions, and save the fricking universe!

XO,  
Janine Gill

And me, Gwenpool!

I love punch AND punching!

Ooooo, did she just say the name of the book?

#BOOM

I'm such an artist!

That's me!

#PREACH

Obvil!



# CAPTAIN MARVEL

ACE PILOT. SPARKLEFISTS. LADY BOSS.

**CAROL DANVERS** grew up in a Boston military family with her parents and two brothers. Although it was a steep uphill battle in her time, Carol *needed* to fly. So she joined the Air Force as soon as she turned eighteen (despite the protests of her father, who believed women weren't as capable as men), taking inspiration from women like aviation hero **HELEN COBB**. It can be very hard to push past the limits others place on you, but Carol knew she must follow her own dreams. She pushed herself to become a top-of-her-class fly girl. Before long, she was bravely piloting an elite Stark plane through enemy territory under the code name "Cheeseburger"—delicious *and* deadly. Carol retired from the Air Force as a colonel, and became the head of security for **NASA**. Oh, did I not yet mention Carol is a straight-up boss? Yeah! She was breaking down barriers long before she got super-powers, silencing anyone who doubted that women were capable of incredible things.

At NASA, Carol met **CAPTAIN MAR-VELL**, a Kree alien who was also a Super Hero on the side. I know what you're thinking. *Wait, isn't Mar-Vell a lot like Marvel?* Well, yes! And for good reason. Carol developed her powers when she was caught in a conflict between Captain Mar-Vell, his foe Yon-Rogg, and a large alien machine called a Psyche-Magnitron. (Listen, these aliens

live for hyphens between syllables, so just go with it.) During their alien skirmish, Carol absorbed a great deal of radiation that unlocked **KREE POWERS** within her body. However, they lay dormant until months later—more on that soon.

After aiding Captain Mar-Vell, who was under government investigation, Carol Danvers's career at NASA quickly deteriorated. I mean, she saved the world but pissed off the government. Classic Super Hero mistake. While everything was falling apart, Carol reawakened her passion for writing and began working for *Woman* magazine, owned by the *Daily Bugle*. There she became BFFs with Mary Jane Watson (ya know, Spider-Man's on-again-off-again bae) and enjoyed a normal life until she began having strange blackouts. During these blackouts, new super-powers emerged and transformed her into the Super Hero **MS. MARVEL**. Yeah, that's right. MS. Marvel. And thus, Princess Sparklefists was born! Carol eventually mastered her gifts and began aiding Super Hero teams on the reg. She eventually joined **THE AVENGERS** as one of their major players. In her early days (and later days, for that matter) she had A LOT of drama. The Avengers and Carol have always been on-again, off-again, so let's just say sometimes she was seeing other Super Hero teams.

**Name:** Carol Danvers

**Alias:** Captain Marvel

**Super-powers:** Flight; energy absorption and photon blasts that make her hands sparkle; super-strength; speed; stamina; durability

**Nicknames:** Ace, Princess Sparklefists

**Skills:** Ace pilot  
Master combatant  
Espionage / super-spy  
Multilingual, including alien languages such as Kree and Shi'ar  
Talented writer

**Super Bestie:** Jessica Drew, aka Spider-Woman

**Club House:** Avengers Mansion

**Solo Pad:** The crown of the Statue of Liberty

**Snark Level:** 10 out of 10 Tony Snarks

**Main Squeeze:** War Machine, aka James “Rhodey” Rhodes—(at one point he died in her arms and she didn’t handle that very well)

**Animal Companion:** Chewie—looks like a lovable ginger house cat but is actually a Flerken.\*

On a space mission with some “off-again” Super Hero allies, Carol began to channel the powers of a white hole, which transformed her into the ultra-powerful and flame-covered entity **BINARY**. As Binary, her cosmic powers were nearly limitless. Feeling detached from her home planet, she traveled the stars, often teaming up with a very bohemian band of space travelers called the Starjammers and just chilling out across the galaxy.

Over time, the white hole Binary drew her power from began to collapse. Carol returned to Earth to join forces with the rest of its mightiest heroes, the Avengers. After spending some time recuperating with the old Avengers gang, she took on the code name **WARBIRD**, in memory of one of her favorite fighter jets. As Warbird, she was not taking any crap. She was back for vengeance, taking down every villain and criminal around.

The Avengers would need Carol’s help once again during the world-altering mental breakdown of the powerful Scarlet Witch, where she turned reality inside out. Carol, seeing her true power in this altered reality, rediscovered her past reality, reclaiming her name as

\* An alien creature resembling a cat, but containing pocket dimensions holding a seemingly endless protrusion of tentacles, toothy maws, and eggs to be laid. Very snuggly.

Ms. Marvel. As you can imagine, all of this name-changing had her ready to take a little solo time.

Carol had always been a military girl, so when Tony Stark needed to enforce the Super Hero Registration Act, Ms. Marvel was ready to lend her muscle to the fight. All super-powered people were forced to register with the government, which created a civil war between Super Heroes. Her best friends were torn apart and fighting—anyone who has lived through high school knows how that goes.

In the wake of all of these global upsets, a new and super-not-cool power arose: Norman Osborn (as in the Green Goblin—yeah, *that* Norman Osborn). Well, he tried to convince Ms. Marvel to join his Dark Avengers, but she refused, because she knows a jerk when she sees one. Instead she joined the **NEW AVENGERS** to stop Osborn’s evil agenda and protect the world in secret alongside Captain America, the biggest teddy bear in the good ole U-S-of-A. With only slightly world-ending consequences, Osborn was defeated and the Super Hero Registration Act was repealed. Phew! Ms. Marvel had finally found her home again with Earth’s Mightiest Heroes. I mean, what’s a world takeover every now and then anyway, right?

### **BUT WHEN DID CAROL GET PANTS?!**

Finally, courtesy of Tony Stark, Carol Danvers was given a fancy new flight suit (**WITH PANTS**, because fighting bad guys is hard enough without your butt showing). Captain America suggested that Carol had earned a new title to go with her new look: **CAPTAIN MARVEL**.

Carol had to do some soul-searching. Mourning the death of her aviation hero and mentor, Helen Cobb, Carol realized that without women like Helen who paved the way, sometimes having to fight her own superiors to prove her worth, Carol might never have gotten to fly in a plane, much less in her new **SUPER HERO FLIGHT SUIT**.

Driven by her admiration for Helen and her father—who she wanted to impress and prove wrong in equal

### **WHY IT MATTERS THAT CAROL DANVERS WAS MS. MARVEL BEFORE SHE WAS CAPTAIN MARVEL**

Carol took on the code name Ms. Marvel when she became a Super Hero because of her creation during the Women’s Liberation Movement. During this time, honorifics for women were either Miss (if unmarried) or Mrs. (if partnered). However, you will notice men are noted as Mr. whether or not they are married, meaning maybe their status isn’t greater or less depending on if they locked it down or not. Around the same time Carol Danvers showed up in comics, the title *Ms.* began to be adopted as an honorific for women in hopes of giving them equal opportunity to that of men, regardless of marital status. When Ms. Marvel was given her name, it meant she wasn’t there to be married or to be single—she was there to kick some butts and save some days.

measure—Carol forged her own path to greatness. But sometimes the hardest part of achieving great things is pushing past the limits you put on yourself, even if you are decades deep in super-heroing. So for Helen, for her father, for the long-passed Mar-Vell, for the future of girls and women to follow in her flight path, and yes, for herself, Carol Danvers claimed the name Captain Marvel, a symbol of greatness. Just as Helen paved the road for Carol, Carol must now make way and support future women Super Heroes.

And that’s just what she has done. Captain Marvel has saved the world countless times, traveled the cosmos with her cat, **CHEWIE** (who might just be the cutest and creepiest alien in the universe), and spent tons of time hanging with her bestie, Spider-Woman. Now she focuses on protecting the Earth and other planets across the galaxy. Not a bad gig, really.



### **So Let’s Review!**

-  **US Air Force** (The Cheeseburger years)
-  **NASA** (Head of Security, aka Boss Lady)
-  **Ms. Marvel** (If ya nasty)
-  **Ms. Marvel 2.0** (Struck by lightning)
-  **Binary** (2 Hot 2 Handle)
-  **Warbird** (Give them the bird!)
-  **Captain Marvel** (KWEEN)



# AMERICA CHAVEZ

POWER PUNCHER. RISING STAR. DREAMER.

**B** IEN, MI FAMILIA! First off, you need to know that **AMERICA CHAVEZ** likes to punch hard. Not only is she good at it, she has a no-BS policy of punch first and ask questions later when it comes to villains. She is notorious for her sassy mouth, bangin' style, and a smirk that puts Tony Stark to shame. But don't get me wrong—just because America is a *cool* girl doesn't mean she is a *mean* girl. When it comes to friendship, America is **THERE** for it. We'd all be lucky to have *or be* a friend as supportive as America. Oh! You probably should also know that she hails from a dimension made up exclusively of women called Utopia, but trust me, she is all-American.

America Chavez's story begins on **PLANETA FUERTONA** (part of Utopia so, you know, all women here, too), a world that was invaded by insectoid parasites called La Legion. Super-gross. Think giant evil roaches. Nooo thanks! The gods that created Planeta Fuertona sent an ice age over the planet to cleanse it of the invaders. America's grandmother Madrimar punched a star portal (pretty tough abuela) through to the **UTOPIAN PARALLEL**, an alternate dimension. There the women of Fuertona could be safe and wait for their planet to heal, and, ya know, not freeze their cookies off.

America's mothers, Amalia and Elena, met and fell in

love in this alternate dimension. On the day of America's birth, Madrimar left the Utopian Parallel to go back to rebuild Planeta Fuertona. America had a relatively normal and happy existence as a tiny girl who gained super-powers from absorbing the **DEMIURGE**. What's the Demiurge, you ask? Just a sentient life force that seeded the planets and created the elder gods. Stay with me, people. America and her family of literal strong-women were imbued with power punches, interdimensional travel through star portals, and of course, flight through those perfectly punched star portals. Can you imagine having so many super-powered ladies to look up to?! Sure, you can! They're everywhere, even if our dimension tends to have ladies with different kinds of powers.

When America was only six years old, black holes threatened to engulf her home in the Utopian Parallel. To save their people, America's mothers sacrificed themselves to heal the rift that threatened their dimension. This left them "smeared" across the multiverse. Not the ideal afterlife for your parents, but still . . . a bit cosmically romantic. I mean, it is very heroic but not super-great for a little kid who suddenly has no parents. America, bereft and grieving, hastily exited the last portal from the Utopian Parallel into the outer dimensions. She hoped to **TRAVEL THE STARS** and become a hero like her

**Skills:** Natural leader  
Hand-to-hand combat  
Bilingual  
Grade-A flirt

**Unofficial Deity:** Selena (not Gomez)

**Super-powers:** Flight  
Super-strength  
Super-speed  
Invulnerability to physical harm (but not to feels)  
Interdimensional portal creation  
Time travel TBD (she's working on it)

**Weaknesses:** Oreo ice cream  
Cute text messages



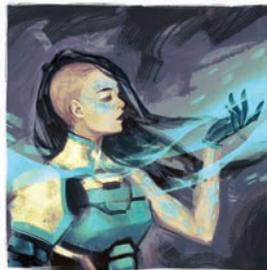
# SCIENCE SQUAD

**I**N THESE PAGES, prepare to meet some of Marvel's greatest scientific minds! From Lunella Lafayette, the smartest person in the world, to the S.H.I.E.L.D. research scientist Mockingbird, to Riri Williams, the fifteen-year-old dynamo who reverse engineered her own Iron Man armor—these ladies have got **STEM** on lock! Let's do some research of our own, shall we?



## G.I.R.L. Scientific Research Collective

This badass lab was founded by **NADIA VAN DYNE** with the help of her stepmother, Janet Van Dyne! In Nadia's own words, G.I.R.L. (Genius In action Research Labs) is "dedicated to finding the brilliant girls and women who will not just save the world, but change it." LaShayla "Shay" Smith, Priya Aggarwal, Taina Miranda, and Ying (G.I.R.L.'s faithful members) are housed at **PYM LABS**, where Nadia works in her father Hank Pym's old laboratory. (You might remember him as the original Ant-Man.) In addition, the lab has some of the greatest research tech around. It has also been outfitted with dorm rooms for the girls and their overseeing scientist, Mockingbird, aka the legendary S.H.I.E.L.D. agent/scientist/adventurer Bobbi Morse!



## XIAOYI "ISO" CHEN Engineer, Terrigen Expert

Iso, a New Inhuman, is a mechanical and engineering genius. She was selected by the Inhuman Queen Medusa to work on a cure for a disease plaguing mutants. A huge job for a **BURGEONING SCIENTIST!** Iso was more than up to the task. Especially when you consider her Inhuman ability to control pressure systems. You might even say Iso works best under pressure.



## VIVIAN "VIV" VISION Synthezoid Technology Expert

Imagine if you had a friend who emitted Wi-Fi! Viv is the ultimate technological mind, because she IS technology. When her father, Vision, found himself single but ready to settle down, he just created an **ANDROID FAMILY** of his own. Viv is a microchip off the old block with a brain out of a **SUPER COMPUTER!** She comes complete with internet access and a search engine at the ready. No wonder she knows it all!



## DR. WILMA CALVIN S.H.I.E.L.D. Biochemist

Meet one of Marvel's earliest notable scientists who has been breaking barriers for **WOMEN OF COLOR** in STEM since 1972! Dr. Wilma Calvin was assisted by none other than Bobbi Morse in her early days as a scientist. This position would later inspire Bobbi to become one of S.H.I.E.L.D.'s greatest agents—Mockingbird. Wilma also uncovered the greatest secrets of the **SUPER-SOLDIER SERUM** that gave Captain America his famed strength. Dr. Calvin has created the serum's closest approximation since its inception with her work for **"PROJECT: GLADIATOR."**



## ELSA BLOODSTONE Archaeologist, Monster Hunter

This straight-shooting Brit was born into a long line of **MONSTER HUNTERS**, which means she doesn't like to just track down horrific beasts, she studies them, too! In order to pursue these oft-antediluvian beings, she has become an expert in ancient civilizations, dead languages, folklore, and monster biology. All of which she uses to track down malicious creatures and obliterate them. Her achievements have even landed her a professorship at the **BRADDOCK ACADEMY** in her home country of Great Britain.



## MOON GIRL Genius Inventor

Though Lunella Lafayette is only nine years old, she is the **SMARTEST PERSON ON EARTH!** Her Super Hero name, Moon Girl, was originally what her peers used to mockingly call her, for her love of space. She's still just a kid, but her youthful imagination often results in ingenious inventions adults might never even consider! From her spring-loaded skates to her fully functioning cybernetic Lego triceratops, Lunella never limits her creativity. Oh, and she's even been featured as a guest speaker at the interdimensional Super Hero college **SOTOMAYOR UNIVERSITY!**



## ANNA MARIA MARCONI Chemistry, Physics, and Cybernetics Specialist

Though some may underestimate her due to her small stature, Anna Maria Marconi is a genuine scientific genius. She first met Peter Parker while he was finishing his doctorate. (He was actually under the control of the villain Doctor Octopus at the time, but let's not worry too much about that.) She became his chemistry and physics tutor. Yes, she straight-up schooled Spider-Man! She was immediately hired by Parker Industries, where she became one of the world's most advanced research scientists. She even helped Doctor Octopus take on more **HEROIC CYBERNETIC WORKS**, which she continued after his control over Peter Parker's body ceased.



## IRONHEART Advance Technologies

Riri Williams's true superpower is her **GENIUS** as an engineer. Graduating high school at fifteen years old, she headed off to college at MIT where she was able to reverse engineer her own Iron Man armor in the school lab. With the blessing of Tony Stark and added bonus of her own personal Stark Artificial Intelligence system, Riri now fights crime as Ironheart. She continues to improve the functionality of her Ironheart tech, because any machine can always be **BETTER, FASTER, AND SMARTER.**



# MS. MARVEL

INHUMAN HERO. SHAPE-SHIFTER. GEEK GIRL.

**KAMALA KHAN** is one of the greatest heroes in the Marvel Universe, and it's not because she has a lot of hero experience. She's a devoted friend and daughter. She works hard in school. She is a level-five orc wizard in *World of Warcraft*. She writes Super Hero fanfic. But most importantly, Kamala *cares*. She sees the world as it is and wants to make it an even better place.

Kamala is one of the few heroes who does everything in her power not to destroy a building, because she knows that it belongs to a small-business owner. She asks herself if someone really needs to be punched or if there's a less fist-forward solution at hand. Kamala is a leader—not because she forces people to obey her, but because people follow her example.

**KAMALA KHAN** is the Pakistani American girl next door. She loves sci-fi, video games, and geek culture, and she's a serious Super Hero fangirl. She has loving parents who try to instill in her traditional Muslim values, which means being a good person, doing your homework, steering clear of drugs and alcohol, and not spending time alone with boys.

One Friday night, Kamala asked her parents if she could attend a party with some of her friends from school, but of course with the possibility of drugs, alcohol, and definitely boys, her parents sent her to her room

instead. Feeling suffocated by all those rules, Kamala made a break for it and sneaked out.

Down at the party on the waterfront, she could see the wreck of **ATTILAN** in the harbor (which, if you remember, had fallen into the Hudson River). Kamala caught up with her friends, but between insults from her frenemies and the uncomfortable pressure to drink, she decided to bail and headed for home. Soon after she left, though, she found herself surrounded by strange mists, and something about the turn this night was taking started to feel seriously weird. A cocoon engulfed her and the mist—made of Terrigen—kickstarted a process known as “terrigenesis.” Turns out that unbeknownst to her or her family, Kamala was an **INHUMAN**, and the Terrigen Mists activated her Inhuman genes, transforming her.

When Kamala awoke, she found herself with fantastic new powers. She realized she could shape-shift parts of her body (her fists, for example), making them very large and increasing her strength (a process she calls **EMBIGGENING**). She could also make herself very small, take on different appearances, and bend her body like putty.

Feeling a sense of duty to her hometown, Jersey City, she took on the moniker **MS. MARVEL** in a nod to her

**Name:** Kamala Khan

**Alias:** Ms. Marvel

**Super-powers:** Shape-shifting  
Healing factor  
Embiggening  
Proportional strength to size

**Jersey Besties:** Nakia, Bruno

**Skills:** Straight-A student  
Gifted scientist  
Fanfic writer

**Base:** Jersey City, NJ

longtime hero, Captain Marvel, who had used the name previously. When baddies ventured across the river from New York City, Kamala was there to stop them.

The Inhuman Queen Medusa took an early interest in Kamala and her heroic tendencies. At the newly rebuilt Inhuman city of New Attilan, Medusa took Kamala under her wing for training, and even sent her teleporting canine, Lockjaw, to aid Kamala on her journey. Her actually-maybe-pretty-cute best friend, Bruno, was one of very few to know her secret and aid her as Ms. Marvel. Kamala continued to hide her heroics from her family and her friend Nakia, which slowly drove a wedge between them.

When a genius who turned himself into a birdlike figure called the Inventor began stealing teenagers to use as a renewable energy source, Kamala made it her mission to find and free the teens. Like most baddies, though, the Inventor didn't stop there. Instead, he resorted to convincing the teens that they had no worth until they volunteered to sacrifice themselves for his plans. Kamala isn't the quitting kind, so she redoubled her own efforts. She liberated the teens again and this convinced them that their lives were worth fighting for. She made it clear that kids were not responsible for adults who squandered their money, ruined the environment, and jeopardized their children's futures. Kamala showed them that kids must save the future, because **THE FUTURE BELONGS TO THEM**. Kids must find their own self-worth and never let any person—young or old—take it from them. Kids have more power than they might ever know.

**Squads:** All-New, All-Different Avengers; Champions

**Hero Homeslices:** Nova, Spider-Man, Viv, Brawn, Cyclops, Snowguard, the Wasp, Ironheart

Kamala saved the day and even got to fight alongside her hero, Captain Marvel. Captain Marvel gave Kamala a necklace that featured both their symbols—Captain Marvel's **STAR OF HALA** and Ms. Marvel's **LIGHTNING BOLT**—and provided emergency GPS should Kamala ever need to be found.

Even though she had proven herself as a Super Hero, Ms. Marvel felt disconnected from her life as Kamala Khan. Kamala returned to her family and confessed to her mother that she was Ms. Marvel. While she braced for impact, her mother revealed that she'd already known. In fact, she was very proud to call this hero, who cared for and protected people, her daughter. Kamala made amends with her friend Nakia, and even her frenemy, Zoe, who, with time, became more friend than enemy.

Her friend Bruno . . . well, Kamala finally gave Bruno time to talk, and he confessed his love for her. Though she knew it was important to figure out her feelings for him, she had other priorities. Even if her rejection meant he would move on to someone else, her life as a hero was simply more important than romantic entanglements. Her priority was saving the world, becoming the greatest Super Hero she could be, and learning things in school—and she could not let anything compromise that. Some things are just imperative, and she knew she'd have plenty of time for romance in the future when she was ready for love.

Kamala threw herself into hero life and was scouted almost immediately by Tony Stark to join his **"ALL-NEW, ALL-DIFFERENT" TEAM OF AVENGERS**. There, she met fellow young heroes Spider-Man (aka Miles Morales) and Nova (aka Sam Alexander). It wasn't all sunshine and rainbow bridges, though. Tony Stark and Captain Marvel faced off in a major fight, and Kamala's morals wouldn't allow her to continue being a part of the team. She cut ties with Captain Marvel and became her own hero. We can admire our heroes, but no one is Ms. Marvel. It's like

the saying: **"DON'T SIT TOO CLOSE AT THE BALLET."** It's easy to forget the people we look up to are *people*, and that people make mistakes.

Ms. Marvel started an elite team called the **CHAMPIONS** with Miles Morales and Sam Alexander, who had also stepped away from the Avengers. They were joined by the eighth-smartest person on Earth, Amadeus Cho, who also happened to turn into a big green Hulk, later known as Brawn, as well as Viv, the synthetic sentient android daughter of Vision. In time, they would add to their ranks a time-displaced teenage Scott Summers, aka Cyclops; tiny scientist Nadia Van Dyne, aka the Wasp; Inuk teen Amka Aliyak, aka Snowguard; and Ironheart, aka Riri Williams.

## CHAMPIONS

Ms. Marvel believed that though they'd once been her biggest heroes, adult Super Heroes had made a royal mess of things with their carelessness, infighting, and blatant disregard for anything beyond their missions. It was the job of the younger generation to take on saving the world in a new way—a way that used their **INTELLIGENCE AND EMPATHY** before their fists. Using Viv's search-engine-like brain, they could find people around the world who needed their help, so that they might protect them. But even more importantly, the Super Heroes began to learn about helping others the way they needed, rather than the way they *thought* people needed to be helped. Ms. Marvel reminded herokind that being a hero is less about punching bad guys and more about helping those who need it—helping can still be fun! Now, let's go **EMBIGGEN** something!





# IRONHEART

INVENTOR. ACCIDENTAL QUEEN. IRON WILL.

**WHAT DO YOU GET** when you mix the gumption and genius of Tony Stark with the heart and enthusiasm of a pint-size teen tech prodigy? Ironheart, obviously! **RIRI WILLIAMS** is a fifteen-year-old **SUPER-GENIUS** with her own Iron Man-style armor and a whole lot of tenacity. Her endless inquisitiveness and dedication have given her the skills (and the machine) needed to be a Super Hero. Though her suit does the bulk of the heavy lifting, Riri's true super-power is hard work and intellectual curiosity. No one has put Riri to the test more than herself. She was never tasked with reverse engineering an Iron Man armor—she did it to prove to herself that she could.

We can all take a page from Riri's instruction manual and make our hobbies our life's work, if we put our minds to it and follow our intellectual interests. It just takes a dash of **BRAVERY** and a whole lot of hard work. Each device and piece of Riri's mech suit requires endless iterations, but the process can be the fun part! Riri gets to discover something new every day and make it better. And trust me, something can always be better. Take it from me, a woman writing a book.

As a small child, Riri was highly intelligent. Even at a very young age, she became fascinated with building

things, which evolved into a love of creating new technology. Though Riri was thrilled by her intellectual endeavors, she tended to be a solitary child. Children her age just couldn't match wits with her, but her parents wanted Riri to enjoy a normal childhood. Luckily, Riri fell into a close friendship with her neighbor Natalie. They didn't necessarily always share the same interests, but Natalie respected Riri's eccentricities and reminded her to be a kid every now and then. The girls grew very close, and Natalie was one of the few people who understood Riri.

Riri continued to stoke the fires of her creativity, eager to understand the world around her. Did I mention that **STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) can be very creative? STEM may have a reputation for being left-brained, but it takes wild imagination to dream up new machines, formulas, and hypotheses about the world. Riri drew her greatest STEM inspiration from the astronaut **MAE JEMISON**, who faced great challenges as the **FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMAN** to go into space, in 1992. Riri wasn't often challenged by her education, but she begged one of her teachers to create more challenges to help her be more like Jemison. That way she, too, would have something to fight for and against. Her teacher finally acquiesced and halfheartedly

**Name:** Riri Williams

**Squad:** Champions

**Alias:** Ironheart

**Mentors and Helpful**

**Bases:** Chicago, MIT Dorms  
(Cambridge, Massachusetts)

**Grown-ups:** A.I. Tony Stark, Pepper Potts, Mary Jane Watson, Amanda Armstrong, Friday (Tony's A.I.), Mrs. Williams

**Childhood Bestie:** Natalie

told her she'd never be as good as Tony Stark at building tech. From that day forward, Riri set out to beat Tony Stark at his own game.

At Natalie's urging, Riri and her parents attended what was supposed to be a jovial church picnic in a Chicago park. Unfortunately, instead of summer fun, shots rang out. Riri's stepfather and Natalie were hit by a drive-by shooter in a random act of violence. Neither survived the attack. Riri's mother was devastated to lose another husband to gun violence. Riri lost not only her second father, but the only true friend she'd ever had. She dealt with her pain by throwing herself into her work like never before. She shut out the pain and kept herself busy. Very busy. Riri graduated from high school early and was accepted into the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) when she was just fifteen years old.

At MIT, Riri had all kinds of resources and tools that had never been available to her before. Using materials found on her campus, she reverse engineered Iron Man's mech suit and created her own **FLYING DEFENSIVE ARMOR**. Riri would never have to watch the people around her die in a senseless act of violence again. However, when campus security caught wind of her little project, Riri fled, going on the lam around the US.

In New Mexico, she had her first experience with stopping escaped criminals, but her armor was damaged in the fray. She wasn't quite ready for prime time. Returning to her mother's home in Chicago, she set out to repair and improve her armor as best she could. Guess who was there waiting for her? Tony flippin' Stark! I guess when you straight-up steal someone's style, they take notice pretty quickly. Awkward! Tony was truly impressed, though. With Stark's surprise blessing, Riri chose to follow in his technological footsteps as a hero. As you can imagine, her mother was less than thrilled that her only daughter was risking her life to protect the world. However, it was also painfully clear from the tragedies she had suffered that someone needed to protect people. What's more, she believed in her daughter.

Riri trained at Stark's facility, playing war games with his other armor suits and learning the finer points of being a hero. Things were going pretty great—until Tony was injured during a **SUPER HERO CIVIL WAR**. Seeing a definite need for someone to take up the mantle, Riri decided to take over for Iron Man as her alter ego, Ironheart. Though Tony was no longer around to guide her, he was kind enough to leave behind an A.I. system built from his own personality and memories. In hologram form, A.I. Tony Stark continued to assist Riri with her day-to-day problems and helped her to pilot her new Ironheart armor.

Having mentors is important for young people (and honestly, not-so-young people, too). No one knows the trials and tribulations of a field more than those who



work in and around it. Fortunately, Pepper Potts, Tony's former girlfriend, past Stark Industries bigwig, and part-time hero, was also available to help Riri with the armor. They first became acquainted when the Techno Golem, Tomoe, tried to relieve both ladies of their armor using her technological manipulation. Luckily, Riri was able to outsmart Tomoe using nothing but a crappy laptop, a homemade techno virus, and a fire extinguisher. Not. Bad.

Pepper was impressed and was ready to give Riri her leave, but they had attracted more attention. The skirmish brought S.H.I.E.L.D. knocking—specifically S.H.I.E.L.D.'s executive director, **SHARON CARTER**. In the aftermath of the fight, Sharon recognized Riri's

talents and tried to recruit her. S.H.I.E.L.D. could offer Riri exciting opportunities to become a real hero. However, Riri was in no hurry to sacrifice her autonomy for a black-and-white uniform. Though Sharon was none too pleased with Riri's decision, she decided to be there when Riri needed her most—whether Riri wanted her help or not.

When it came to her daily activities, Tony's executive assistant, Mary Jane Watson, and his biological mother and CEO of Stark Industries, Amanda Armstrong, were also there to help Riri. In fact, Riri had a whole crew to assist her on her journey. Cultivating mentors might seem a strange process, but seeking out those who can help you can change your life. It certainly changed Riri's.

Riri was well on her way to becoming a full-fledged Super Hero. She even (only sort of accidentally) freed the corrupt country of Latveria. Defeating the evil ruler Lucia Von Bardas in battle, Riri became Latveria's de facto **QUEEN!** Listening to the concerns of the Latverian people, Riri saw they weren't evil—just desperately in need of assistance. Previously, the Latverian people would have had to resort to less-than-moral means to get their basic needs met. It's no wonder so many turned to lives of crime! Riri laid out a plan to get the country back on track before departing the monarchy. The job of running a country, on top of the demands of her college and Super Hero schedule, would pose real difficulties. So she set up a fair election process that restored democracy and helped the country get back on its now-democratic feet.

Riri continues sharing her iron heart with the people who need her help and the baddies who need straightening out. She often lends her muscle to **THE CHAMPIONS**, the teenage Super Hero team that solves the problems that adults can't solve or sometimes overlook. Riri is even on the short list for the **NOBEL PEACE PRIZE!** There is little Riri can't do if she puts her mind to it. Let's all strive to be as driven, passionate, and intellectually curious as Riri!